

3 July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Update on School arrangements for the Summer and Autumn Terms**

With just a couple of weeks of the Summer Term left, I want to update you about progress on the reopening of School and our future plans.

#### **Reception, Year 1 and Year 6**

With more children returning in the last couple of weeks, we are now welcoming most of our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 groups. It has been lovely to see them back in School, and they have responded brilliantly to our guidelines and the unusual classroom arrangements.

Given the increased numbers and classroom limitations, we plan to continue the current arrangements until the end of Term. This means that children in **Reception** can attend School every Wednesday and Thursday; children in **Year 1** can attend every Monday and Tuesday; and children in **Year 6** can attend every Monday to Thursday inclusive. As before, **children of key workers** can attend school every Monday to Thursday inclusive. School remains closed on Friday for deep cleaning.

**Please note a slight change to hours for our Year 6 group:** from Monday, we will ask that children be dropped off at 8.45am and picked up at 3pm. Otherwise, hours will continue as at present, **including on the final day of the Summer Term (Thursday 16 July)**, when we might normally close earlier.

#### **Years 2, 3, 4 and 5**

After thorough risk assessments and a review of our progress so far, we have sadly concluded that it won't be possible to welcome back children in these year groups before the end of the Summer Term. We understand that this may well be a disappointment to children, parents and carers, and teachers and I are very sorry that we won't be able to see these year groups. The small size of our classrooms and available staff, and the health risks associated with extending access to the School, have led to the decision that it would not be safe enough to accommodate more children at this stage.

We will of course continue to support children with remote learning. Our Zoom lessons have been well attended and are a great way for children to interact with one another. Our weekly collective worships via Zoom are another lovely opportunity to get together, and to join up the groups of children in school and at home. If you haven't yet joined us for one, we'd encourage you to come along!

#### **Year 6 leavers arrangements**

It's a great sadness to us that we won't be able to send our Year 6 children on their way in our usual manner this year. But we're determined to give them as good a send-off as we can, and will be holding a special **Leavers' Service via Zoom at 10am on Thursday 16 July**. Everyone will get an invitation and we hope you will join us.

### **The 2020-21 school year**

As you will probably know, the government wants to see all children return to their schools from September. We are busy working to make this possible, and details of the class arrangements will follow before the end of term—though with guidance changing so rapidly, you will appreciate the need for flexibility.

One firm policy to tell you about now is that we will have a relaxed **non-uniform approach** in the first half of the Autumn Term. We envisage that parents will be asked to wash children's clothes at the end of each day to help reduce the spread of Covid-19, and weather permitting we will also be having lots of outdoor learning. We hope to reintroduce full uniform after the October half-term break. The Friends group plan to hold a uniform collection and sale in September, giving parents the chance to sell items on to others; more details to follow nearer the time.

Finally, a reminder to anyone planning trips abroad over the summer that you may be required to quarantine for two weeks on your return (depending on the country visited) which may have implications for the start of the Autumn Term! Of course, guidance may change again, but it is something to be mindful of.

### **Thank you**

Teachers and I are very grateful to all the parents and carers who have made the return of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 such a happy and positive experience. We are equally thankful for all the work that has been done to ensure that children in other groups keep up with their learning at this challenging time. We will be helping all children catch up with any extra learning that is required from September, and making sure they continue to make the best possible progress in their education. School will inevitably be an unusual environment, but we are hugely looking forward to the time when we can all be together again.

Please remember that staff and I are always available via the office to help support your children's learning and answer any queries you may have. We will be back in touch again before the end of term with more details about our arrangements for September.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Battersby  
Headteacher

Dorothy Milner  
Chair of Governors